

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6 pending in the present application and are rejected. Claims 1-4 and 6 are herein amended. Claims 5 and 7-14 are herein cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added. Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the telephone interview of August 22, 2008. Applicants' Statement of the Substance of the Interview is incorporated herein.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-7 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Office Action rejects the claims on several grounds. First, with respect to claims 1 and 6, the Office Action states that it is not clear what "like" means in the term "rubber-like." As such, Applicants herein amend these claims to delete the term "rubber-like," and instead simply recite "an elastomer."

With respect to claim 1, the Office Action states that it is unclear what is encompassed by the recitation of "a mutually mingled fashion." This portion of claim 1 is describing the relationship between ribs 51 and auxiliary ribs 52. Thus, Applicants herein amend claim 1 to recite "said first ribs intersecting with said second ribs."

Next, with respect to claims 2, 4 and 6, the Office Action states that it is not clear what element corresponds to "them" in the recitation "every a predetermined number of them." This

recitation is intended to recite that the first ribs surround the lattice holes, and that they may surround every lattice hole, surround every two lattice holes, etc. As such, Applicants herein amend claims 2, 4 and 6 to recite that the first ribs “surround a predetermined number of lattice holes.”

Next, with respect to claim 6, the Office Action states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for “the one lattice member.” As such, Applicants herein delete the word “the” from claim 6.

Finally, as to claim 14, the Office Action states that it is unclear what membrane structure is required by the claim. Applicants herein cancel claim 14 without prejudice. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants’ Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by FR 2674590 (“FR ‘590”).

It is the position of the Office Action that FR ‘590 discloses the invention as claimed. FR ‘590 discloses an antivibration device including a rigid base 1 attached to a rigid ring 2 by wall 3. A rigid cap 5 is attached to the rigid ring 2. FR ‘590 further discloses a bellows 4. Annular space E divides the space within the bellows 4 and wall 3 into two chambers, chamber A and chamber B. Annular space E includes intermediate rigid portion 6, which includes grids 9 and 10. Valve 8, which appears to be made of an elastomer material, is positioned between the grids 9 and 10. Valve 8 includes embossings 11 and peripheral pad 15. As illustrated in Figure

3, in an uncompressed state, the embossings 11 appear to abut the rigid range 12 portion of the grid 10. On the other hand, it appears that in such a state, there is a space between the peripheral pad 15 and the annular range 16 of grid 10. A plan view of the valve 8 is illustrated in Figures 2 and 6. From these plan views, it is clear that the peripheral pad 15 is a ring around the outer edge of the valve 8, while the embossings 11 are individual, isolated, raised-or-lowered "spots."

In response, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable over FR '590 at least due to the structure and position of the ribs. The Office Action interprets FR '590 such that peripheral pad 15 is "first ribs" and embossings 11 are "second ribs." The Office Action appears to be of the position that the width of the embossing 11 is less than the width of the peripheral pad. Accordingly, with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that FR '590 does not disclose or suggest that first ribs intersect with second ribs. In other words, peripheral pad 15 does not intersect with embossings 11. Rather, embossings 11 are individual, isolated, raised-or-lowered spots. On the other hand, as illustrated for example in Figure 7, first ribs 51 intersect with second ribs 52. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 distinguishes over the cited art. As to the dependent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable at least due to their dependency on claim 1.

With respect to claim 6, Applicants herein amend the claim to incorporate claim 7. Amended claim 6 requires that the ribs which are annular abut the lattice members on both sides of the lattice holes. On the other hand, FR '590 discloses the opposite configuration. In FR '590, the peripheral pad 15 is annular in shape, but is spaced from the grids 9 and 10. Meanwhile, embossings 11 abut the grids 9 and 10. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that

Application No.: 10/536,903
Art Unit: 3683

Amendment
Attorney Docket No.: 052561

amended claim 6 distinguishes over the cited art. With respect to claim 14, this rejection is moot, since claim 14 is herein cancelled without prejudice. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

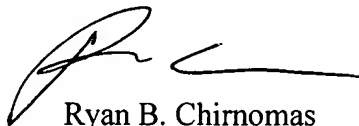
For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Ryan B. Chirnomas
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 56,527
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

RBC/nrp